



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONNECTICUT ARMY NATIONAL GUARD AVIATION UNITS RETURN FROM SOUTHWEST ASIA

WINDSOR LOCKS, Conn., - Maj. Gen. Thaddeus J. Martin, Adjutant General and Commander of the Connecticut National Guard, announces that 50 soldiers from Company B and Detachment 1, Company D, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment of Windsor Locks arrived at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma, today from Southwest Asia.

The units deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and flew aviation missions and maintained UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters in Iraq.

Company B and Detachment 1, Company D, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment mobilized in July 2004, and departed for Ft. Sill on September 9, 2004 for further training and validation. On December 31, 2004 the units departed Ft. Sill and arrived in Kuwait on January 1, 2005, processed through and went forward into Iraq.

The demobilization process begins when they arrive at Ft. Sill and anticipate the arrival of both units in Connecticut late Wednesday evening just in time for the Thanksgiving holiday. By February 2005 the unit will be released from active duty.

“It would be a great Thanksgiving holiday for the soldiers and the families of both units as we await their return to Connecticut late Wednesday evening,” said Martin. “They have done an outstanding job and played an integral role in the Global War on Terror.”

(MORE)

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The primary mission of Company B, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment is to provide Air Assault and Air Movement Operations while Detachment 1, Company D, 1/189th provides Aviation Unit Maintenance (AVUM) for the Air Assault Battalion. The 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment is headquartered in Montana with subordinate units located in Connecticut, Montana and Arizona. The 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment operates and maintains UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters and will deploy with these aircraft.

Currently, 50 soldiers from G Company, 126th Aviation or Windsor Locks and six soldiers from Detachment 6, U.S. Army Operational Support Airlift Command (OSACOM) of Windsor Locks are stationed in Iraq. Fifty soldiers from the 208th Personnel Service Detachment (PSD) are stationed in Kuwait.

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